



NATIONAL
TAXPAYERS
UNION

NEWS

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, May 7, 2003

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Citizen Group Salutes "Taxpayers' Friends" in Congress

Just 36 Lawmakers Receive Awards for Scores on NTU's 2002 Rating

(Washington, DC) – Many Members of Congress talked about strengthening America's economic security last year, but far fewer consistently backed up their words with votes. Today a Capitol Hill ceremony sponsored by the 335,000-member National Taxpayers Union (NTU) presented "Taxpayers' Friend Awards" to an elite group of 36 lawmakers who earned top scores on the group's comprehensive and widely-respected Rating of Congress in 2002.

"Not all Members of Congress fought day in and day out during 2002 for the principle of limited government that is the cornerstone of our country's greatness," said NTU President John Berthoud. "Fortunately, at least 36 allies in Congress demonstrated an unwavering commitment to taxpayers. We are proud to honor this fiscal 'coalition of the willing.'"

NTU officials furnished a special certificate to "Taxpayers' Friend Award" winners during the ceremony that recognized each recipient's efforts to "further the cause of vitally needed fiscal integrity."

The Rating, which since 1978 has been based on every roll call vote affecting fiscal policy, assigns a "Taxpayer Score" to each Member of Congress that indicates his or her support for reducing or controlling federal spending, taxes, debt, and regulation. In the year 2002, a total of 139 House and 115 Senate roll call votes were selected. The average Taxpayer Score was 41 percent in the House – roughly equal to 2001's mark. However, averages slumped significantly in the Senate, to 40 percent in 2002 versus 46 percent the year before.

Lawmakers who received the Taxpayers' Friend Award for the year 2002 had to achieve a score of at least 64 percent in the House or 70 percent in the Senate. The highest scorers in the House and Senate, respectively, were Ron Paul (R-TX) with 88 percent and Jon Kyl (R-AZ) with 82 percent.

NTU is a non-profit, non-partisan citizen organization founded in 1969 to work for lower taxes, less wasteful spending, and accountable government at all levels. *Note: The 2002 Rating, which reports Taxpayer Scores for all lawmakers, is available via fax or online at www.ntu.org. Staff members are available for comment on particular scores. Recipients of the 2002 Taxpayers' Friend Award follow:*

U.S. House of Representatives

Todd Akin (MO)
Bob Barr (GA)
Chris Cannon (UT)
Steve Chabot (OH)
Christopher Cox (CA)
Mac Collins (GA)
Phil Crane (IL)
John Duncan (TN)
Jeff Flake (AZ)

Virgil Goode (VA)
Gil Gutknecht (MN)
Joel Hefley (CO)
John Hostettler (IN)
Brian Kerns (IN)
Donald Manzullo (IL)
Gary Miller (CA)
Jeff Miller (FL)
Ron Paul (TX)

Joe Pitts (PA)
Dana Rohrabacher (CA)
Ed Royce (CA)
Jim Sensenbrenner (WI)
John Shadegg (AZ)
Nick Smith (MI)
Cliff Stearns (FL)
Tom Tancredo (CO)
Pat Toomey (PA)

U.S. Senate

John Ensign (NV)
Mike Enzi (WY)
Phil Gramm (TX)

Jon Kyl (AZ)
Richard Lugar (IN)
Don Nickles (OK)

Rick Santorum (PA)
Craig Thomas (WY)
Fred Thompson (TN)